To the Right Honourable
The KNIGHTS, CITIZENS & BURGESSES
Assembled in
PARLIAMENT.

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The Humble Petition of the numerous Creditors *of the* Goldsmiths *concerned in the stop of his* MAJESTIES *Exchequer.*

Most Humbly Sheweth,

THat your Petitioners (being incouraged and invited by the Securities of the Common and Statute Laws of this Realm, and his Majesties gracious Promises given unto the said Goldsmiths, and their Creditors) placed some their whole, and others, the greatest part of their Estates in the said Goldsmiths hands, and found just dealings, till about *December* 1671. that a stop was put to any further Payment out of His Majesties Exchequer; since when they have not only failed of their Principal, but also of a good part of the Interest thereof, which was most of your Petitioners daily Bread.

That some of your Petitioners are poor Widows and Orphans, who having put their Mites into the said Goldsmiths hands for their Maintenance; are left Monyless, Helpless, and Friendless.

That others of your Petitioners having with hard and painful Labour and Travel in their Youths, got together some small Estate to maintain them in their old Age, for Surety put the same into the said Goldsmiths hands.

That many put their Estates into the said Goldsmiths hands till their Children came to Age, to put them to Apprentice, and to bestow others in Marriage; and others for want of their Monies, being out of their Times of Apprenticeship, cannot set up their Trades, and so are ruined.

That others of your Petitioners lost their Estates, exposed their Persons, and brought Themselves, their Wives and Children to beggery, in Defence of his Majesties and Fathers Royal Persons and Crowns in the late Rebellion, (of which some of them bear about them the Honourable Marks) and only Saved from Violence and Rapine a small pittance, which they also put in the said Goldsmiths hands to buy Bread in their Old Age, and are now unable to work for more, and so must Perish.

That some by suffering the loss of part of their Estates, becoming Debtors themselves are cast into Loathsom Jayls, for want of their own to satisfie their Creditors, where, without your Honours Compassion, they are like to continue.

The Consequence of which hath been, that many of them have been (and are) ready to Perish for Want.

That some laying to Heart their great Misery, are Distracted, and others have made away themselves.

That others (through Grief) broke their Hearts and died miserably, leaving behind them both disconsolate Widows and miserable Children, without either Friends or Money to help them in their most extream Necessity. With many other innumerable and unexpressible Wants and Grievances, Occasioned by the said stop of the Exchequer.

Your Petitioners therefore most humbly implore Your Honours (for the sake of the Great God of Heaven and Earth) That Commiserating their most Sad and Deplorable Condition, Your Honours will be pleased (out of your great Care of Property) to Consider of some Effectual way for the Relief of Your Petitioners, by enabling them to Receive their just Debts, as to Your Great Wisdoms shall seem meet.

And your Petitioners (as in Duty Bound) shall ever Pray, &c.

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